

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1487

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC AND AMEMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: SECOND LABOR-GOVERNMENT MEETING

REF: MADRID 6187

1. FOR FIVE HOURS ON AUGUST 23, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE "BIG THREE" OF LABOR (SOCIALIST UGT, COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS' COMMISSIONS/SWC, AND CHRISTIAN SOCIALIST USO) MET AT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE WITH HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING CHAIRMAN JOSE ALVAREZ RENDUELES (SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COORDINATION AND PROGRAM DIRECTION, MINISTRY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF ECONOMY) AND THE UNDERSECRETARIES OF LABOR, ECONOMY, AND COMMERCE.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE PRINCIPAL THEMES DISCUSSED CENTERED ON THE BROADENING OF TRADE UNION REPRESENTATION AT FUTURE TALKS (TO INCLUDE THE BASQUE STV, THE CATALAN SOC, AND POSSIBLY THE TWO EXTREME LEFT

"UNITARY" UNIONS WHICH SPLIT OFF FROM THE SWC - THE PTE-ORIENTED CSUT AND THE ORT-ORIENTED SU), LABOR'S CONCERN THAT PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO TRADE UNION FREEDOMS (I.E. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS, PLANT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS, ETC.) IN ANY DIALOGUES ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, AND THE PURELY "INFORMATIVE" (AS AGAINST "NEGOTIATIONS") CHARACTER OF THESE LABOR-GOVT MEETINGS. IN ADDITION TO A DISCUSSION ON THE GROUND RULES FOR MEETINGS OF THE TRIPARTITE TECHNICAL JOINT COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS, TIME WAS DEVOTED TO A DETAILED PRESENTATION OF ECONOMIC DATA BY THE GOVT. IN THE LATTER CONNECTION, SWC REPRESENTATIVE SARTORIUS TOOK EXCEPTION TO GOVT ESTIMATES ON UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION, AND DESIRED WAGE CEILINGS. LABOR -CONTINUING TO REJECT ANY TALK OF "SOCIAL PACT" - IN PARTICULAR QUESTIONED THE JUSTICE OF A PROPOSED 17 TO 18 PERCENT CEILING ON WAGE INCREASES IN FACE OF A REPORTED GOVT-ESTIMATED RATE OF INFLATION OF 25 TO 27 PERCENT IN 1977.

3. COMMENTING TO LABATT AUGUST 24, UGT ORGANIZATION SECRETARY GARCIA DUARTE (ALSO PSOE SENATOR FROM MALAGA) TERMED THIS SECOND ROUND OF TALKS "USEFUL AND INFORMATIVE." THE GOVT SIDE, HE SAID, HAD MADE ITS "PITCH," AND THE UGT HAD REQUESTED MORE COMPLETE DATA THAN HAD BEEN OFFERED. HE CONFIRMED THAT FUTURE LABOR REPRESENTATION WOULD PROBABLY BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE THE FOUR UNIONS MENTIONED ABOVE. THE GOVT HAD ALSO INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO INCLUDE THE ANARCHO-SYNDICAL CNT, BUT THE UNION HAD TURNED ITS BACK ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTICIPATION. WHEN ASKED IF THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS WOULD BE TRULY TRIPARTITE AS ENVISIONED BY THE GOVT (UNTIL NOW, LABOR AND EMPLOYERS HAVE BEEN MEETING SEPARATELY WITH THE GOVT), DUARTE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW.

4. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NEWLY-ORGANIZED EMPLOYERS' UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION, THE CEOE (SPANISH CONFEDERATION OF EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS - CLAIMING TO REPRESENT OVER 50 PERCENT OF SPANISH MANAGEMENT), ARE SCHEDULED TO HAVE THEIR MEETING WITH THE GOVT ON AUGUST 24. THE CEOE HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT IT WILL HOLD ITS CONSTITUENT CONGRESS ON SEPTEMBER 22. STABLER

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